

**To:** OW-Resource Management Staff[OWResource\_Management\_Staff@epa.gov]; OW Budget Officers[OW\_Budget\_Officers@epa.gov]; Shapiro, Mike[Shapiro.Mike@epa.gov]; Best-Wong, Benita[Best-Wong.Benita@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Campbell, Ann[Campbell.Ann@epa.gov]; Orvin, Chris[Orvin.Chris@epa.gov]; Kaiser, Sven-Erik[Kaiser.Sven-Erik@epa.gov]; Peck, Gregory[Peck.Gregory@epa.gov]; Gude, Karen[Gude.Karen@epa.gov]; Balasa, Kate[balasa.kate@epa.gov]  
**From:** Spraul, Greg  
**Sent:** Mon 1/30/2017 1:48:33 PM  
**Subject:** Budget update  
[scott-pruitt-qfr-responses-01.18.2017.pdf](#)

## **Pruitt reveals his views in responses to questions for the record**

It might be worth your time to search for relevant key words for your water program areas in the 242 pages of responses to questions from Senate EPW members attached. The following water related topics were covered: New WIIN/WRDA authorities, SRFs, Integrated Planning, Green Infrastructure, TMDLs, water quality standards, 106 grants, monitoring and assessment, PFOA, NPDES permit backlog, CWSRF formula, making CAFO data being made public, Columbia River, Lake Champlain, State Nutrient Framework, Tax-exempt bonds, Lead.

## **Infrastructure likely towards the bottom of the congressional GOP to-do list**

South Dakota Sen. John Thune, chairman of the GOP conference, said at the party's policy retreat in Philadelphia last week it's too early to say when or even "if" Republicans will tackle an infrastructure bill this year. He added that "obviously, it'd have to be funded."

The GOP has "a very focused agenda of things that we want to get done in the next 200 days," Thune told reporters. "And how infrastructure plays into that, we're not sure yet. It could hitch a ride perhaps on some tax reform bill."

## **Trump may prefer "fix-it-first" approach to infrastructure**

The president suggested during his remarks to Republicans in Philadelphia that he'd prefer the type of "fix-it-first" approach to prioritizing infrastructure spending that Obama once championed.

"We will build new roads and highways and tunnels and airports and railways across the nation," the president told GOP lawmakers. "We will fix our existing product before we build anything brand new, however."

Trump's advisers have backed the idea of paying for an infrastructure plan with a one-time tax break for corporations bringing overseas profits into the U.S., an idea Democrats also support despite some wariness among Republicans. But Schumer told reporters this week that a repatriation holiday, as it's known, is "not going to be close to enough to funding what we need, even if it were included."

## **The Democrats water infrastructure plan**

The 11 page "[A Blueprint to Rebuild America's Infrastructure](#)" sites \$655 billion in needs and calls for 110 billion to repair water and sewer. Here is the relevant water paragraph from the plan:

“We will make major investments in the Clean Water and the Drinking Water state revolving funds, and USDA water programs, to address the growing backlog of water and sewer projects. We will also give States new flexibility to provide communities with more grants rather than loans. This will unlock thousands of new water and sewer infrastructure projects without burdening local ratepayers. In addition, we propose decreasing the local matching funds required of states and local governments who simply cannot afford to take on more debt. Finally, we will increase funding for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program that provides federal loans to support large-scale water infrastructure projects with national and regional significance.”

All of these infrastructure plans will mean nothing unless agreement can be reached on how to pay for it.

### **The President signs a memo on American Iron and Steel**

The president asked the Commerce Department to write a plan for using U.S. steel “to the maximum extent possible.”. See the Memo [here](#).

### **House T&I Infrastructure hearing Feb. 1**

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold its first hearing of the 115th Congress on the "challenges facing our Nation's infrastructure and a vision for building a 21st century infrastructure for America" on Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 10 a.m. in 2167 Rayburn. Witnesses: Frederick Smith, CEO of FedEx Corp.; David MacLennan, CEO of Cargill Inc.; Ludwig Willisch, CEO of BMW of North America; Mary Andringa, Vermeer Corp. chairwoman; and Richard Trumka, president of the AFL-CIO.

### **Pruitt confirmation vote in Committee this week**

Senate Environment and Public Works votes Wednesday on the nomination of Scott Pruitt to head the Environmental Protection Agency (10:45 a.m., 406 Dirksen).